

Leader ARMEY and Minority Leader GEPHARDT.

It is well-known that a priest had received the most votes by the bipartisan committee, only three of which on the committee were Catholic. It should be noted that there has never been a Catholic House chaplain in the 211 years there has been a House chaplain, and, for that matter, there has never been a rabbi or a woman chaplain.

The Speaker and Majority Leader rejected the priest and went further down the list and chose Reverend Wright, who is a good man. Now, I want to be very clear about my thoughts on this. I know DENNY HASTERT and DICK ARMEY personally, and they are not anti-Catholic, but there is no question that this is a mess. Coupled with the Bob Jones University fiasco, Catholics in my district and around the country are shaking their heads in dismay.

So, Mr. Speaker, here is my unsolicited advice for ending this "holy war" that belongs in a long-ago past:

First, Reverend Wright should see that to become chaplain under these circumstances would impair his ministry. He should voluntarily remove himself from consideration.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we can do one of two things: We could abolish the position and simply have a rotating voluntary ministry, or we could keep the position but start over completely.

We should start over with an entirely new committee, look at an entirely new slate of candidates, and make the committee decision final. That way, if a Catholic is chosen, no one can say that the Speaker has pandered to the Catholics; if a Catholic is not chosen, no one can say that he is anti-Catholic. But the Speaker should not, I repeat, should not ask for a party line vote.

As for myself, if Reverend Wright comes up for a vote, I will vote "present," not against Reverend Wright per se, but in disgust with the whole way this has been handled on both sides of the aisle.

Before I close, I want to say this: It is not fair to paint evangelicals and Christian conservatives with the broad brush of Bob Jones. My wife and I and our children have worshipped many times at evangelical churches and have been made welcome. The evangelical ministers that I know, like Pastor John Palmer in Des Moines, do not have a racist or bigoted bone in their bodies. To the contrary, they have reached out to minority churches, reached out to Jews and to Catholics in Des Moines.

During the Iowa caucuses I got to know and respect Gary Bauer. What he wrote today in the New York Times is true. I quote Mr. Bauer. He says, "The so-called religious right is not a mindless mob that marches in lockstep at the command of this or that organizational leader. Though some may conjure up imaginary conservative conspiracies in order to frighten voters or divert attention from presidential scandals, social and culturally conservative voters, not all of whom happen to be evangelicals or necessarily even religious, are a diverse, independent-minded bunch."

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party I belong to is tolerant, respecting all people and all religions. I am proud to be a Republican. We are the party of Ronald Reagan and Teddy Roosevelt. We are the party of Abraham Lincoln, and we are not the party of Bob Jones.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and March 1 on account of a family emergency.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GARY MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BALDACCIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mrs. BONO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 1.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today and March 1.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 400. An act to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to improve the delivery of housing assistance to Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of tribal self-governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

S. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution commending the people of Iran for their commitment to the democratic process and positive political reform on the occasion of Iran's parliamentary elections; to the Committee on International Relations.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that the committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 149. An act to make technical corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 and to other laws related to parks and public lands.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that the committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 764. To reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 1, 2000, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for official foreign travel during the second quarter of 1995, first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 1998 and 1999, by Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as a consolidated report of foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during first quarter of 2000, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, and for miscellaneous groups in connection with official foreign travel during the calendar year 1999 are as follows: